Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 16 Mar 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 17 Mar 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 15 Mar 2023 at 12:15

Confidence: High becoming Medium in details from Friday and Low from Sunday.

Headline for Thursday 16 Mar 2023: Rain and drizzle. Summit gales.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 16 Mar 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** Medium Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Drizzle	Drizzle
Precipitation probability							
60%	70%	70%	60%	50%	70%	60%	60%

Forecast for Thursday 16 Mar 2023

Weather: Outbreaks of heavy and persistent rain overnight and during the morning, turning lighter and more patchy during the afternoon. Mostly overcast with further rain or drizzle in the evening. Some buffeting in the gale force winds.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Nil to 20%

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud, base 600m or less, bases below 300m at times on west and southwest facing slopes. Best chance of some higher bases over the Northern and Far Eastern Fells, perhaps nearer 900m at times. Visibility often moderate or poor and very poor at height.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 16 Mar 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	38/48 S	39/48 S	41/52 S	42/53 S	41/52 S	35/46 S	35/46 S	33/45 SW	31/41 SW
600	33/45 S	30/42 S	31/44 S	31/44 S	30/43 S	28/40 SW	29/42 S	27/40 SW	24/35 SW
300	10/30 S	7/27 S	12/33 S	12/34 S	13/33 S	12/31 S	13/32 S	12/31 SW	11/28 SW
Valley	9/27 SE	7/25 S	13/32 S	14/33 S	15/33 S	15/31 S	15/31 S	15/31 S	13/27 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-5	3/-4	4/-4	4/-4	4/-3	5/-2	5/-2	4/-2	4/-3
600	3/-4	4/-2	5/-1	5/-1	6/-0	6/1	6/1	6/0	5/-0
300	3/-0	5/2	7/3	7/4	7/4	7/4	7/4	7/4	7/4
Valley	6/3	7/5	8/5	8/5	8/5	9/6	9/6	9/6	8/5
Freezing Level*	2000m	2000m	2000m	2000m	2200m	1800m	1700m	1600m	1500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Navigational difficulties expected at height due to extensive low cloud.

Forecast for Friday 17 Mar 2023

Weather: Cloudy overnight and early morning with some rain, drizzle and mist. The cloud then lifting and breaking with some bright spells along with occasional heavy showers. The cloud lowering again in the evening with occasional rain or showers.

Maximum wind: South or Southwest 20 to 25mph gusting 35mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% overnight and early morning, rising to 80% in the afternoon, lowering again in the evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional or extensive cloud, base 300 to 600m, lifting and breaking above the summits in the afternoon. Visibility moderate to very poor at first in rain, drizzle and mist becoming mainly good or very good, except in heavy showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 6 rising to 13 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 3 to 6 Celsius
Freezing level: Above the summits.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 15 March 2023. Location: On path between Browncove and Lower Man at c860m at 11:25 Full report: Although snow fell down to valley level it has only really settled above 150m and, similar to Tuesday, was thawing during the day below 300m. Above 150m the snow depth rises with height, although the actual depth encountered varies considerably from a few centimetres on exposed and windswept areas to drifts of 70cm in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly east facing aspects – the snow having been deposited on a W-NW wind. However, with a change of wind direction today to a S-SW air flow, there has been some redistribution of the lying snow. The snowpack is soft powder and trudging through the deeper drifts is arduous and energy sapping. The only ice encountered on paths was at lower elevations where there had been a thaw/freeze, on drainage lines below 400m, on popular routes where the snow has been compacted and occasionally, mainly above 700m, where Tuesday's fresh snow settled above patches of verglas (thin ice) on rocks and on old frozen snow. As this, obviously, cannot be seen it made for treacherous conditions underfoot especially on exposed ground. The main hazard encountered today, however, was the lack of visibility. The deep snow obscuring all landmarks (including rocks and cairns) combined with low cloud and blowing snow/spindrift created whiteout conditions and the assessor retreated before reaching the summit when a steep drop (or anything else for that matter) could no longer be seen – even his bootprints had disappeared so these could not be followed back down! On Tuesday, small cornices were observed building on steep east facing slopes. As mentioned a lack of visibility meant that these could not be inspected today, nor was it sensible to go anywhere near the edge when it wasn't obvious where the drop was! If such cornices still exist (and they probably do), please similarly give them a wide berth. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. As described, there is currently the potential to experience whiteout conditions. Therefore a map and compass combined with competent navigational skills are essential in such challenging conditions. With rapidly changing weather, it is important to note that whiteouts can suddenly happen rather than simply walking up into it; hence both today and yesterday walkers were changing their plans and sensibly walking back down before getting into difficulties. At the time of writing, the Lakes are under a Met Office Yellow warning for snow from 4pm on Wednesday until 4am on Thursday. This precipitation may, or may not, fall as rain in the valleys but will add to the snowpack at altitude so walkers heading above the snowline on Thursday should be prepared to encounter more snow than experienced and described here. Steep and exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, are in winter condition and should only be attempted by those experienced in winter mountaineering and equipped with an ice axe and crampons. On less demanding terrain walking poles and microspikes (to cope with icy, compacted snow on popular routes) are strongly recommended. Goggles are highly recommended to lessen the sting of any windblown hail or spindrift. Come properly equipped and enjoy the Lakes in their winter glory! Temperature: minus 2.7 C, Maximum wind speed 28.3 mph, Wind chill: minus 12.8 C, Average wind speed: 24.2 mph

Issued at: 1715 on Wed 15 Mar 2023

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